

# NAEP 2009 In Your School

## HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT STUDY

### What is the NAEP High School Transcript Study?

The NAEP High School Transcript Study (HSTS), sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), is a periodic survey of transcripts of high school graduates. The study is designed to provide information about the types of courses that graduates take during high school, how many credits they earn, and their grade point averages. In addition, this study provides an opportunity to examine the relationship between coursetaking patterns and educational achievement through the link to National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) proficiency data.

Additional transcript studies were conducted by NCES with longitudinal studies (i.e., High School and Beyond and the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988). The HSTS school sample includes public and nonpublic schools in the NAEP 2009 sample. As with the previous studies, no student or teacher time is involved.

### What is the Schedule of Activities for HSTS 2009?

#### Phase 1: September 2008 – March 2009

##### Preliminary Activities

- Schools will be notified of their selection for HSTS. Schools will identify an HSTS school coordinator.
- Course catalogs and/or course lists will be requested for the current school year (2008-2009) and for the preceding 3 years (2007-2008, 2006-2007, and 2005-2006).
- A NAEP representative will call each sampled school to discuss the details of the HSTS.

- A NAEP representative will go to sampled high schools on the NAEP assessment day and will place a disclosure notice in the sampled students' files to assist with identifying the student population for whom transcripts will be obtained. This notice will include the provisions from the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which explain the disclosure safeguards that grant NAEP the authority to obtain transcript information.
- One sample transcript will be requested. Student identifying information will be masked.
- The NAEP representative will review all materials and will ask questions necessary to understand the transcripts and course catalogs.

#### Phase 2: June – October, 2009

##### Collection of Transcripts

- A NAEP representative will return to each sampled school to collect copies of transcripts for the sampled students.

### What Else Should You Know?

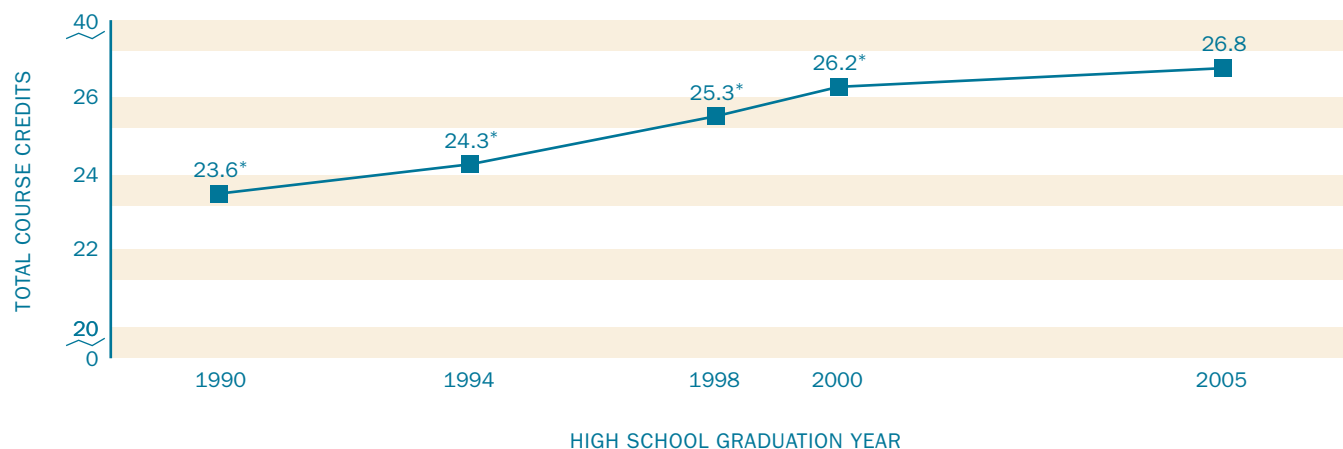
- **NO STUDENT OR TEACHER TIME IS INVOLVED** NAEP staff will work with school personnel to minimize as much of the burden as possible.
- **CONFIDENTIALITY** Students' names and all other identifying information will be removed or masked before removing copies of transcripts from the school.
- **NO COST TO SCHOOLS** NAEP will pay the school's usual charge for providing transcripts.
- **PARENTAL NOTIFICATION** Not required by NAEP or No Child Left Behind.

## What are the Results from the NAEP 2005 HSTS?

Here are some selected results from the 2005 HSTS report, entitled *America's High School Graduates: Results from the 2005 NAEP High School Transcript Study*.

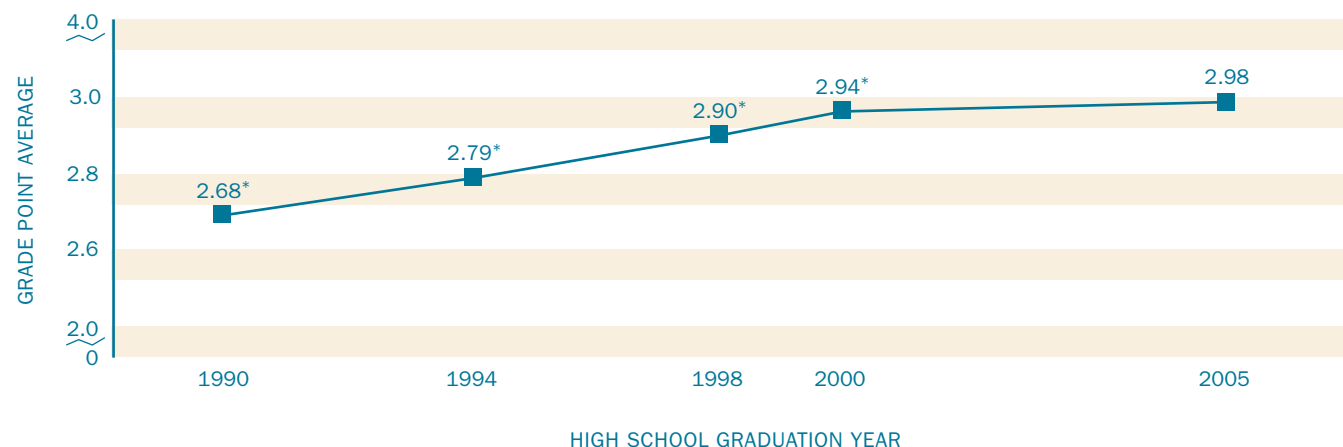
### Trend in Total Course Credits Earned

In 2005, graduates earned about three credits more than their 1990 counterparts, or about 360 additional hours of instruction during their high school careers.



### Trend in Grade Point Average, by Year

In 2005, the overall grade point average was approximately a third of a letter grade higher than in 1990.



\* Significantly different from 2005

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, High School Transcript Study (HSTS), Various Years, 1990-2005.

## Where Can I Find More Information?

More information about the NAEP high school transcript studies can be found by visiting the NAEP web site at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/hsts/>.

## Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The granting of authority to the U.S. Department of Education for collection of the transcript data has been made pursuant to the provisions of the Family Education on Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. 1232g), as implemented by 34 CFR

99.31 (l) (a)(3)(ii) and 99.35. These laws and regulations permit an educational agency to disclose records to authorized representatives of the Secretary of Education without the prior consent of the survey participants in connection with the audit and evaluation of federal and state supported education programs. The privacy of the information schools are asked to supply to NAEP and the HSTS will be protected by the removal of names and other identifying information, as required by FERPA. A copy of the relevant FERPA regulations will be provided to you prior to the collection of any transcripts.